

Application No. 10/735,343
Amendment dated April 25, 2006

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 5 (as amended by the Amendment dated July 27, 2005) with the following amended paragraphs:

—To achieve these and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of the invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, the shoe in one embodiment includes an upper having a heel region and rear sole support attached to the heel region below a portion of the upper. The rear sole support includes a base, a first wall extending downwardly from the base and having a first groove, and a second downwardly extending wall opposite the first wall and having a second groove facing the first groove. A rear sole is detachably secured to the rear sole support with a mounting member attached to the rear sole and including at least one rim for engaging the first and second grooves. A locking member engages the rear sole support and one of the rear sole and mounting member to prevent rotation of the rear sole relative to the rear sole support during use. member having a top wall with a lower surface. The top wall has at least one peripheral edge proximate a medial side of the shoe and at least one peripheral edge proximate a lateral side of the shoe. The peripheral edges of the top wall have a mid-longitudinal axis therebetween. The mid-longitudinal axis of the peripheral edges of the top wall has a point that is vertically aligned with the approximate center of the wearer's heel. The member has a bottom wall with an upper surface. The bottom wall has at least two portions approximately planar with each other, parallel with the ground, and separated by a gap therebetween. The top wall and the bottom wall each have a forward region and a rearward region. The forward regions of the top and bottom walls are connected at a closed end by a curved wall. The top, bottom, and curved walls are integral. The rearward regions of each of the top and bottom walls are separated from one another to define an open end therebetween. The open end is oriented away from the curved wall. At least a portion of the top and bottom

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walls are spaced a predetermined distance from each other such that during the wearer's gait cycle when the shoe is in contact with the ground the predetermined distance between the at least a portion of the top and bottom walls is reduced. At least one element is positioned between at least a portion of the top wall and at least a portion of the bottom wall, and has a top, a bottom and at least one interior sidewall. A void is located beneath at least a portion of the top wall defined at least in part by the at least one interior sidewall of the at least one element. At least one opening on at least one of the medial and lateral sides of the shoe is in air communication with the void. The rear sole also includes a bottom surface that is at least in part ground-engaging.

In accordance with another embodiment, the shoe includes an upper and a rear sole below a portion of the upper. The rear sole includes a member having a top wall with a lower surface. The top wall has at least one peripheral edge proximate a medial side of the shoe and at least one peripheral edge proximate a lateral side of the shoe. The peripheral edges of the top wall have a mid-longitudinal axis therebetween. The top wall has an opening beneath the wearer's heel. The mid-longitudinal axis of the peripheral edges of the top wall has includes a point that is vertically aligned with the approximate center of the opening in the top wall and the approximate center of the wearer's heel. The member has a bottom wall with an upper surface. The bottom wall has at least two portions approximately planar with each other, parallel with the ground, and separated by a gap therebetween. The top wall and the bottom wall each have a forward region connected at a closed end by a curved wall. The top, bottom, and curved walls are integral. At least a portion of the top and bottom walls are spaced a predetermined distance from each other such that during the wearer's gait cycle when the shoe is in contact with the ground the predetermined distance between the at least a portion of the top and bottom walls is reduced. A void is located beneath at least a portion of the opening in the top wall and is defined at least in part by a material positioned between at least a portion of the

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top wall and at least a portion of the bottom wall. At least a portion of the void is vertically aligned with the approximate center of the opening in the top wall. At least one opening on at least one of the medial and lateral sides of the shoe is in air communication with the void. The rear sole also includes a bottom surface that is at least in part ground-engaging.--